E/2009/24
E/CN.3/2009/29

United Nations

Statistical Commission

Report on the fortieth session (24 to 27 February 2009)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records 2009
Supplement No. 4

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United Nations • New York, 2009

Note

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ISSN 0251-9976

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its fortieth session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-first session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fortieth session;

(b) Decides that the forty-first session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 23 to 26 February 2010;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-first session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Programme review: quality assurance frameworks.

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Employment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Labour Organization

(c) Social statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Statistics on drugs and drug use and crime statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(e) Washington Group on Disability Measurement;

Documentation

Report of the Washington Group

(f) Migration statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Culture statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(h) Gender statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

5. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics

Report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income

(c) Industrial statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) International merchandise trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Statistics of international trade in services;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

(f) Statistics of services;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Services Statistics

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

(g) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Tourism Organization

(h) Finance statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Monetary Fund

(i) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(j) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;

Documentation

Report of the Ottawa Group

(k) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Delhi Group

(l) Integrated economic statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(m) Information and communication technologies statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

6. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environmental statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics

(b) Environmental accounting;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

Report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting

(c) Climate change statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

7. Activities not classified by field:

(a) World Statistics Day;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(c) International economic and social classifications;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

8. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

9. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-second session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its forty-first session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

40/101
Programme review: climate change and official statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the high-quality programme review on climate change and official statistics prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics,[1] which took into consideration the recommendations of the two conferences held on this subject, in Oslo, from 14 to 16 April 2008, and in Seoul, on 11 and 12 December 2008;

(b) Recognized that climate change is an important global issue with social, economic and environmental impacts and that official statistics have an important role to contribute to closing data gaps;

(c) Acknowledged that climate change is a new area of official statistics, and noted that work in this field should be approached with caution as countries are at different levels of statistical development and have different national governance arrangements with respect to production of statistics related to climate change;

(d) Noted that current negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are of paramount importance and that any potential interference with these processes should be avoided;

(e) Agreed that there is a need to understand the data needs of various stakeholders, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and to engage them in

[1] E/CN.3/2009/2.

identifying the areas where the official statistical community can make the best contribution, including statistical classification issues;

(f) Recognized that many of the statistics already being produced by national statistical systems can be used for the calculation of emissions and the measurement and analysis of the drivers and the impacts of climate change and that work should therefore focus on utilizing existing statistics before embarking on new areas;

(g) Emphasized the importance of coordination among the various stakeholders at the national level which are engaged in climate change-related statistics, with the aim of producing high-quality statistics;

(h) Noted the interest of some countries to develop a framework of environmental statistics at the national level to facilitate the understanding of the phenomenon of environmental and climate change;

(i) Stressed the importance of training and capacity-building, in particular for the developing countries, and expressed the need for appropriate training material and the development of a knowledge base in this new area of official statistics;

(j) Noted that there were differing views regarding the proposed expansion of the mandate of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting to cover the area of climate change-related statistics, and requested the Committee to prepare new terms of reference and a priority list of its work programme, including statistics related to climate change, for further consultation with the Bureau prior to a decision by the Commission at its forty-first session, in 2010.

40/102
Agricultural statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation the report of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics[2] on global initiatives to improve agricultural and rural statistics;

(b) Stressed that agricultural and rural statistics are essential for policymaking and that strategic direction is needed to meet the increasing demand for information at both the international and country levels, especially in the light of the recent food crisis;

(c) Emphasized the important role of agricultural ministries and other institutions in the compilation of agricultural statistics, as well as the coordination role of national statistical offices and national statistical councils;

(d) Supported the development of a strategic plan based on the recommendations and road map as set out in the report;

[2] E/CN.3/2009/3 and Corr.1.

(e) Agreed that the main lines of action should be:

(i) To identify a minimum set of indicators that reflect current core agricultural statistical needs and emerging requirements, including those from neighbouring domains;

(ii) To provide a blueprint for a better integration of agricultural statistics in the national statistical system;

(iii) To advocate for national statistical organizations and ministries of agriculture to obtain funding to meet the agreed international requirements;

(iv) To establish a basis for statistical capacity-building by identifying a set of methodological tools;

(v) To establish coordination of donor efforts to improve agricultural and rural statistics;

(f) Recognized the important role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as the specialized agency in this field, and welcomed the commitment and effort of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to involve the ministries of agriculture through its governing bodies in the development of the strategic plan and the implementation plan;

(g) Agreed with the creation of a Friends of the Chair group to steer the process, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Statistics Division serving as secretariat, stressed the importance of proper representation of countries from all regions and at different levels of development, and welcomed the interested countries to participate in the group to ensure ownership of the process by countries;

(h) Requested the Friends of the Chair group to report back to the Commission at its forty-first session on progress in the development of the strategic plan to improve agricultural and rural statistics.

40/103
Energy statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the revised and updated international recommendations for energy statistics[3] and expressed its appreciation for the work accomplished so far by the United Nations Statistics Division, the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics and other stakeholders;

(b) Endorsed the United Nations Statistics Division strategy to prepare the international recommendations for energy statistics, and suggested that the preparation of the recommendations be considered a matter of high priority;

(c) Emphasized that the revised recommendations should provide a firm foundation for the long-term development of official energy statistics based on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and contain the necessary guidance on

[3] E/CN.3/2009/4.

the underlying concepts, definition and classifications as well as on data compilation and data dissemination in the context of an integrated approach to economic statistics;

(d) Stressed the importance of close cooperation in the development of the recommendations of all relevant international, supranational and regional organizations to avoid overlap of activities and to ensure consistency of concepts and methodologies;

(e) Stressed the importance of the involvement of countries in the preparation of the recommendations, and encouraged countries to actively participate in the drafting process by providing their contributions.

40/104
Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting,[4] and expressed its appreciation for the progress of work carried out by the Committee;

(b) Expressed its full support for the project on the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, acknowledged with appreciation the work done by the London Group on Environmental Accounting, the Oslo Group and others, and recognized the urgency to complete the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting handbook as soon as possible;

(c) Noted that there were differing views regarding the proposed expansion of the mandate of the Committee to include environment and climate change statistics, and requested the Committee to review its mandate, terms of reference and governance structure to reflect the focus of its work on environmental-economic accounting and its role in environment and climate change statistics;

(d) Considered the establishment of an advisory group on environmental-economic accounting and environment statistics not necessary at this stage, agreed that the Committee would need to receive advice on substantive issues, and recommended that technical panels be convened when necessary on an ad hoc basis;

(e) Requested the Committee to submit the revised mandate, governance and terms of reference to the Bureau of the Commission for review and to the Commission for further consideration at its forty-first session;

(f) Also requested the Committee to develop a programme of work outlining its priorities and to disseminate it widely;

(g) Reconfirmed that the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting is the highest priority of the Committee;

(h) Noted the central role of national statistical offices in the coordination and production of environmental-economic accounts, but also recognized the need

[4] E/CN.3/2009/7.

for countries to work with other agencies of Government that may be the main collectors of data on particular topics;

(i) Took note of the resource constraints of the project on the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, appreciated the offers made by Member States and international organizations, and encouraged all Member States to contribute to the project in cash and/or in kind;

(j) Noted the request from countries to translate the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Material Flow Accounts, as soon as they become available, into the official languages of the United Nations as quickly as possible;

(k) Encouraged the Committee to develop a strategy for capacity-building in the field of environmental-economic accounting.

40/105
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Congratulated the member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, consisting of the Statistical Office of the European Community, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank, for bringing the multi-year project of updating of the *System of National Accounts, 1993*, to conclusion, and commended the Working Group for conducting its work on the update in a transparent manner;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to countries, the members of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and other expert groups, organizations and individuals for their in kind and financial contributions to the finalization of the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, and recognized the significant contributions of the Editor, Anne Harrison, and the Project Managers, Carol Carson and Paul McCarthy;

(c) Adopted the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, volume 2, which, combined with volume 1, provides the international statistical standard for national accounts, and encouraged Member States, regional and subregional organizations to implement the standard and support all aspects of the implementation of the updated System of National Accounts, including the national and international reporting of national accounts statistics;

(d) Requested the secretariat and the members of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to finalize the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, as described in the report to the Commission[5] and to proceed with the publication of the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, in all six official languages of the United Nations as rapidly as possible and to promote its wide dissemination, in a single volume, in print and online;

[5] E/CN.3/2009/8.

(e) Supported the proposed implementation strategy for the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, based on the principles of strategic planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting, and for improving statistical systems, and requested the Working Group to pay particular attention to improving basic economic statistics and to the need for consistency and harmonization across sectoral statistics from other macroeconomic frameworks with the national accounts and to recognize the particular circumstances of countries by introducing flexibility in the implementation programme;

(f) Emphasized the advocacy element of the implementation strategy and the importance of a global communication strategy in disseminating knowledge about the System of National Accounts, more specifically the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, and to promote its implementation;

(g) Recognized the importance of the role of the regional commissions and their advisory committees on the System of National Accounts to facilitate coordination and regional cooperation on the implementation programme, and welcomed the initiatives of the regional commissions and other development partners in collaborating on the implementation process of the System of National Accounts;

(h) Requested a coordinated effort by the Working Group on the development of manuals, implementation guides, data collection tools and standardized training material, and in the use of modern and innovative tools, such as distance learning and knowledge bases, to provide easy access on a range of information, including best practices, to facilitate the implementation of the System of National Accounts;

(i) Took note of the outcome of the high-level forum on the future direction of the System of National Accounts confirming that the macroeconomic accounts embodied in the *System of National Accounts, 2008* provide a sound basis for articulating economic developments of a globally interconnected nature;

(j) Noted that processes need to be established to ensure that the System of National Accounts remains relevant and that the programme of work of the high-level forum needs to be precise and elaborated;

(k) Requested the Working Group to report to the Commission at its forty-first session on progress with the implementation programme and the research agenda of the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, taking into account the views expressed by the Commission.

40/106
Social statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics[6] and expressed appreciation for the work of the Expert Group Meeting on the Scope and Content of Social Statistics;

[6] E/CN.3/2009/9.

(b) Endorsed the recommendations pertaining to the activities of the international plan of action;

(c) Recognized that the content, scope and profile of social statistics vary from country to country due to economic circumstances, cultural and traditional differences and different policy objectives, making the harmonization of those statistics a particular challenge, in areas where they need to be harmonized;

(d) Emphasized the importance of developing a substantive inventory of social statistics to identify methodological gaps and to facilitate sharing of best practices in an efficient manner;

(e) Urged the United Nations Statistics Division to undertake the development of the social statistics inventory on a priority basis and to release components as they become available, without waiting for the completion of the whole project;

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to develop an appropriate information technology platform, such as a website and other accompanying tools, to ensure continuous and effective dissemination of information pertaining to the work on social statistics;

(g) Also requested the United Nations Statistics Division to interact closely, in the course of the activities listed above, with all relevant stakeholders at international and regional levels, thus creating a mechanism for sharing experiences and methodology with all national statistical authorities;

(h) Further requested the United Nations Statistics Division to explore the best mechanism for meeting the needs of developing countries in the sharing of experiences and for providing training in the field of social statistics;

(i) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to report to the Commission periodically on the progress made.

40/107
Health statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics,[7] and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Working Group in developing the framework for health statistics;

(b) Agreed with the Working Group and encouraged it to finalize the framework of health statistics, as proposed in the report;

(c) Recognized the complexity of developing such a framework and urged the Working Group to ensure that the framework:

(i) Is easy to use and identifies areas of priority;

(ii) Contributes to the enhanced comparability of health statistics and indicators that should be internationally comparable;

[7] E/CN.3/2009/10.

(iii) Is of practical utility;

(iv) Is synchronized with international standards;

(v) Is developed in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

(vi) Takes into account the different circumstances in different countries;

(d) Urged the Working Group to be as inclusive as possible and to expand its membership accordingly;

(e) Welcomed the offer of support of the World Health Organization in developing the framework for health statistics, especially its work on compiling the registry of health indicators;

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to fully support, where possible, the work of the Working Group in completing the framework for health statistics, and urged other organizations to provide full support as well.

40/108
Education statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Task Force on Education Statistics,[8] and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Task Force;

(b) Endorsed the establishment of an expert group on the revision and implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education, taking into account work that has already been done in this area and available materials and existing frameworks;

(c) Agreed, in principle, with the establishment of an intersecretariat working group on education statistics, led by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, to improve coordination mechanisms, maintain and promote the development of international standards and minimize duplicative efforts among international agencies, concerning aspects not covered by existing mechanisms;

(d) Requested the UNESCO Institute for Statistics to clarify the mandate of the group and explore working modalities in such a way that the existing coordination mechanisms be fully embedded into the scope of the intersecretariat working group;

(e) Welcomed the proposal of many developing countries to be part of the expert group on the revision and implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education as this would enhance the improvement of educational statistics in the developing world.

[8] E/CN.3/2009/11.

40/109
Employment statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation the report of the International Labour Organization on labour statistics,[9] the outcomes of the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians and the actions taken to implement the recommendations contained in the programme review report considered by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session;

(b) Took note of the resolutions on working time and child labour adopted by the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians and the recommendations made by the Conference to the International Labour Organization Governing Body regarding the organization, frequency and duration of the Conference. In particular, the Commission welcomed the recommendation on increasing the frequency of the Conference;

(c) Agreed with the list of priority issues, as listed in the International Labour Organization report, as well as the road map put forward to work on those issues. In particular, the Commission agreed with the need to address the issues of the changing structure of the labour force, including ageing and the definition and measurement of employment and unemployment, including underutilization of labour and work on the measurement of productivity, where feasible to do so;

(d) Strongly stressed the need to increase efforts to assist countries in improving their employment statistics, especially in view of the current global economic circumstances, and took note of the plans of the International Labour Organization for a technical cooperation programme in this area;

(e) Welcomed the offer of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take the lead on the work to extend the labour statistics framework, especially to deal better with the dynamics of the labour force;

(f) Endorsed the proposal that dedicated working groups take up specific identified priority issues and that the International Labour Organization provide the overall coordination for those efforts. In order to facilitate the launch and work of the dedicated working groups, the Commission invited member States and international organizations that had not already done so to inform the International Labour Organization on the topics to which they would be able and willing to contribute, and, in this regard, noted the offer of Canada to take the lead for one of the working groups;

(g) Invited the International Labour Organization to submit a progress report to the Commission at its forty-first session, in 2010.

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[9] E/CN.3/2009/12.

40/110
Gender statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Friends of the Chair on indicators on violence against women,[10] and commended the work of the Friends of the Chair;

(b) Adopted the proposed set of indicators as an interim set and the first step;

(c) Requested that the Friends of the Chair, under the continuing leadership of Mexico, proceed with its work and report back to the Commission accordingly;

(d) Recognized the substantial cultural differences on the issue of violence against women, and urged the Friends of the Chair to expand its composition to ensure that different perspectives and sensitivities are taken into consideration in future work;

(e) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division and other stakeholders, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the regional commissions, to draw upon and further elaborate existing methodological guidelines for measuring violence against women;

(f) Also requested the United Nations Statistics Division to initiate a trial compilation of national statistics based on the interim set of indicators in order to determine their feasibility and relevance;

(g) Took note of the suggestion to include a general consideration of gender statistics in the agenda of the Commission.

40/111
International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Bank setting out a proposal for the governance structure and work programme for the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme;[11]

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the excellent work done in the last twelve months by the:

(i) Interim Executive Board created pursuant to a recommendation of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session for oversight of the 2005 round and preparations for the 2011 round;

(ii) Interim Technical Advisory Group that recommended research priorities and technical improvements for the next round;

(iii) Regional coordination agencies that have maintained their International Comparison Programme coordination roles for the interim period;

[10] E/CN.3/2009/13.
[11] E/CN.3/2009/14.

(iv) World Bank for accepting to continue to host the Global Office for the 2011 round and for coordinating the preparation for the 2011 round;

(c) Took note of the increasing use of purchasing power parity data from the 2005 round by academics, researchers and international organizations and their useful feedback on areas to improve data quality for the 2011 round;

(d) Endorsed the proposed governance structure and work programme for the 2011 round and recommended that particular attention be paid to the following:

(i) Broadening participation and country coverage, giving particular attention to the involvement of Caribbean and Pacific island countries and regional institutions;

(ii) Elaborating on suitable strategies for addressing issues for countries for which the 2011 benchmark year may be a problem due to overlap with the timing of the population census;

(iii) The statistical capacity-building needs of participating countries;

(iv) Ensuring operational links between the International Comparison Programme and the System of National Accounts implementation plans;

(v) Mobilizing needed resources as soon as possible and moving quickly on implementing the work programme;

(e) Drew attention to expediting the research programme with a focus on such priority areas as data quality assessment, ring comparison and compilation software;

(f) Encouraged the further development of advocacy strategies, and welcomed the plan for holding an International Comparison Programme data users conference in 2010 and, if possible, earlier;

(g) Urged that the new Executive Board be established as soon as possible, based on the recommended membership structure, which would include the stakeholders, representatives from partner agencies and rotating members representing groups of countries. The list of members of the Board will be reviewed by the Bureau of the Commission;

(h) Requested that the subcommittee of the interim Executive Board in charge of handling operational matters for the preparations of the 2011 round continue its work until the new Executive Board became fully functional;

(i) Also requested that a status report on the start of the 2011 round be submitted to the Commission at its forty-first session.

40/112
Regional statistical development in Asia and the Pacific

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive and highly informative report prepared by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,[12] and expressed appreciation for the work done;

(b) Congratulated the region for holding the first session of the re-established Committee on Statistics, and recognized that the Committee on Statistics can function as a bridge to the global statistical system and that it has an important role in the promotion and implementation of the international statistical standards in the region taking into account, where relevant, regional and subregional circumstances;

(c) Noted the rapid progress in statistical development in the region, including improvements in the Pacific, but recognized that some countries still require significant assistance in capacity development, especially the small island developing States, landlocked and least developed countries;

(d) Welcomed the support expressed by the statistical conferences and committees of other regions in sharing their experiences;

(e) Noted with appreciation the support expressed by countries to assist the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in steering statistical development in the region, and urged the secretariat to strengthen and coordinate the work on statistical capacity-building to improve sharing of best practices and to increase advocacy activities to assist countries in securing political support from their Governments on statistical development;

(f) Requested the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to establish an informal mechanism for donor coordination for statistical development in the region, taking into account existing mechanism, roles and responsibilities;

(g) Recognized with appreciation the excellent work done by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in the region, and requested the Statistical Institute to intensify its efforts in statistical capacity-building, including for small island developing States, landlocked and least developed countries, and its coordination of training activities in the region, and to assist in building a regional training network involving national training institutes;

(h) Noted with appreciation the strong support of the Government of Japan for the Statistical Institute, and encouraged other countries to increase financial support to the Institute and other regional training activities;

(i) Welcomed the offer of technical assistance on statistical development by some countries through a variety of modalities, including South-South cooperation, long-term training through twinning arrangements and short-term consultancies;

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[12] E/CN.3/2009/15.

(j) Took note of the contributions that had been made in the region by the Development Account projects of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and welcomed the new interregional component in recent projects, which allowed the sharing of expertise across regions.

40/113
Development indicators

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals,[13] and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the United Nations Statistics Division to improve the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Acknowledged the progress made on the assessment of data availability on Millennium Development Goals indicators, and requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to continue improving data development and reporting on data availability for indicators to monitor progress towards all Millennium Development Goals;

(c) Welcomed the many new initiatives announced by member States to improve the Millennium Development Goals monitoring at the national and subnational levels;

(d) Recognized the importance of continuous support to countries in developing their statistical capacity to monitor the Millennium Development Goals, and requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and all partners to increase their capacity-building efforts in that area;

(e) Requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the United Nations Statistics Division to continue their work to further improve the Millennium Development Goals indicators through methodological and technical refinement;

(f) Noted with appreciation the work done to date by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the United Nations Statistics Division to explain and resolve discrepancies between national and international data sets, and requested that the work continue;

(g) Recognized that the population and housing census is an important source of data for the production of Millennium Development Goals indicators, and urged countries that had not yet done so to undertake their 2010 round of the census;

(h) Also recognized the importance of improving the coordination of Millennium Development Goals monitoring at the national level and requested that the Inter-Agency and Expert Group address the issue at its next meeting and develop a strategy to address the requests by many member countries for support;

(i) Agreed with the need to strengthen training in the analysis of Millennium Development Goals indicators, and requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the United Nations Statistics Division to widely distribute the manual of

[13] E/CN.3/2009/16 and Corr.1.

indicators in all official languages and to provide further training on subnational data production and analysis for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.

40/114
Programme questions: United Nations Statistics Division

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division,[14] and approved the following changes to the programme of work of the Division for 2009:

(a) To defer the following three outputs from 2009 to 2010:

(i) Expert group endorsement of technical material in support of the implementation of the revised international recommendations for distributive trade statistics;

(ii) Revision of the principles and recommendations for vital statistics;

(iii) Update of the international classification of activities for time-use surveys (internet and print);

(b) To terminate the current website on methodological work, and to develop a web-based reference library of statistical methodological publications instead.

40/115
Documents considered by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports that were before it at its fortieth session:

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics[15]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics[16]

Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses[17]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers[18]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development on information and technology statistics[19]

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[14] See chap. IV, para. 3.
[15] E/CN.3/2009/5.
[16] E/CN.3/2009/6.
[17] E/CN.3/2009/17.
[18] E/CN.3/2009/18.
[19] E/CN.3/2009/19.

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics[20]

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[21]

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building[22]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century[23]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange[24]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on human settlements statistics[25]

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission[26]

[20] E/CN.3/2009/20.
[21] E/CN.3/2009/21.
[22] E/CN.3/2009/22.
[23] E/CN.3/2009/23.
[24] E/CN.3/2009/24.
[25] E/CN.3/2009/25.
[26] E/CN.3/2009/26.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Programme review: climate change and official statistics

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 6th meetings, on 24 and 27 February 2009. At its 1st meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the programme reviewer (Australia) on climate change and official statistics (E/CN.3/2009/2), and the representative of Australia made an introductory statement.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of China, Canada, Lithuania, Japan, the Russian Federation, Suriname, South Africa, Finland and the United States of America and the observers for the Philippines, Brazil, Mongolia, India and the Republic of Korea. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the European Community and the World Meteorological Organization.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission, under item 3 (a) of its agenda. Following statements by the representative of Canada, the observer for Australia and the representative of the European Community, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/101).

B. Agricultural statistics

6. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st and 6th meetings, on 24 and 27 February 2009. At its 1st meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat) (E/CN.3/2009/3, and Corr.1), and the representative of Eurostat made an introductory statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Japan, France, China, the United States of America, the Russian Federation and Oman, and the observers for Morocco, Italy, Mongolia, Uganda, Cuba, Australia and Argentina. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

8. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

9. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda. Following statements by the observer for Mozambique and the representative of FAO, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/102).

C. Energy statistics

10. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 24 and 27 February 2009. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation and updating of the international recommendations for energy statistics (E/CN.3/2009/4); the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/5); and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/6).

11. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 February, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, made an introductory statement, and statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and the observer for Norway. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

12. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

13. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/103).

D. Environmental-economic accounting

14. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 24 and 27 February 2009. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2009/7). The Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the observer for Australia made introductory statements.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Lebanon, Suriname, France, Japan, the United States of America, Finland, Canada and Germany and the observers for Morocco and Switzerland. The observer for Palestine and the representatives of the European Community, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank also made statements.

16. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

17. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda. Following statements by the representative of Suriname, the observers for India and Australia, and the representative of the European Community, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/104).

E. National accounts

18. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 24 and 27 February 2009. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2009/8), and the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the representative of Eurostat made introductory statements.

19. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by representatives of the Netherlands, Japan, France, Lithuania, the United States of America, China, Canada, Lebanon, Oman and the Russian Federation and the observers for Colombia, the Philippines, Australia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hungary, the Niger, Brazil, Morocco, Mongolia, Senegal, Cuba, Peru and Qatar.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

21. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

22. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February 2009, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda. Following statements by the representatives of France, Germany and Lebanon, the observers for Australia, Morocco and Qatar and the representatives of the European Community and the

World Bank, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/105).

F. Social statistics

23. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 25 and 27 February 2009. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics (E/CN.3/2009/9) and the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement.

24. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Canada, Suriname, China, Finland, Lithuania and Jamaica and the observers for Australia, Angola, Ghana, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Morocco, the Philippines, Italy, the Bahamas, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Peru and Algeria.

25. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa made statements.

26. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), ESCWA and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime made statements.

27. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

28. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda. Following statements by the representatives of Canada and Suriname and the observer for Jordan, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/106).

G. Health statistics

29. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 25 and 27 February 2009. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/10), and the representative of the United States of America made an introductory statement.

30. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of Lebanon, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, Suriname and France and the observers for Cuba, the Philippines, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Denmark, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Niger, Norway, Botswana, Egypt and Cambodia. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

31. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization and the representative of ESCAP.

32. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

33. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (g) of its agenda. Following statements by the representative of Canada, the observer for Australia and the representative of WHO, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/107).

H. Education statistics

34. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 25 and 27 February 2009. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Education Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/11), and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made an introductory statement.

35. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Lebanon, Japan, Germany and the Netherlands and the observers for Cameroon, Qatar, Uganda, Spain, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Cuba. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Community.

37. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

38. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its agenda. Following statements by the representatives of the European Community and UNESCO, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/108).

I. Employment statistics

39. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on 25 and 27 February 2009. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 25 February,

the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization (E/CN.3/2009/12).

40. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 February, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the representative of ILO.

41. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, China, Germany, France and Canada.

42. At the 4th meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mexico and the United States of America and the observers for Australia, Brazil, Ghana, Spain, Switzerland, Cuba, Barbados, Poland, the Islamic Republic of Iran and India.

43. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the African Development Bank, the European Community and the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa and the representatives of ECLAC and ESCWA.

44. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

45. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda. Following statements by the representatives of Germany and Canada, the observer for Australia and the representative of ILO, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/109).

J. Gender statistics

46. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 25 and 27 February 2009. At its 4th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the indicators on violence against women (E/CN.3/2009/13), and the representative of Mexico made an introductory statement.

47. At the 4th meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of Lebanon, Canada, China, Japan and Lithuania and the observers for Italy, Ghana, Chile, Morocco, India, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Colombia and Argentina. The observer for Palestine and the representatives of WHO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also made statements.

48. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

49. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda. Following statements by the observers for Ghana and Palestine and the representative of WHO, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/110).

K. International Comparison Programme

50. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 25 and 27 February 2009. At its 4th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank (E/CN.3/2009/14), and the representative of the World Bank made an introductory statement.

51. At the 4th meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Suriname, France, the Russian Federation, China, Japan and the United States of America, and the observers for Norway, Gabon, Australia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Morocco, India, Colombia, Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uganda.

52. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Community, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa and the representatives of ECA and the United Nations Development Programme.

53. At the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

54. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda. Following statements by the representative of Suriname, the observer for Australia and the representative of the European Community, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/111).

L. Regional statistical development in Asia and the Pacific

55. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 26 and 27 February 2009. At its 5th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of ESCAP (E/CN.3/2009/15), and the observer for Indonesia and the representative of ESCAP made introductory statements.

56. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, statements were made by the representatives of China, Japan, Germany, Finland and Lebanon and the observers

for Tonga, Australia, the Philippines, New Zealand, Viet Nam, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, Ghana, India, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Indonesia, Sweden, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Brunei Darussalam. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

57. At the same meeting, the representatives of the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the European Community and the representatives of UNIDO and ESCAP made statements.

58. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

59. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (l) of its agenda.

60. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Germany and Japan and the observers for Australia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Fiji, New Zealand, India, Indonesia and the Philippines, the observer for Palestine and the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific), the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/112).

M. Development indicators

61. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 26 and 27 February 2009. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2009/16 and Corr.1).

62. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, the Chief of the Statistical Planning and Development Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement.

63. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Suriname (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Caribbean Community) and China and the observers for Egypt, Paraguay, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, the Philippines, Morocco, Viet Nam and Thailand. The observer for Palestine, the representatives of the European Community and the Islamic Development Bank Group and the representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS also made statements.

64. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

65. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (m) of its agenda.

66. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Suriname and Canada, the observers for Cuba, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines and the representative of WHO, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/113).

Chapter III
Items for information

A. Population and housing censuses

Action taken by the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2009/17).

2. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, following statements by the representative of South Africa and the observers for Peru, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Niger, Brazil and the Bahamas, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2009/17) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

B. Business registers

Action taken by the Commission

3. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2009/18).

4. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, following a statement by the observer for Australia, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2009/18) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

C. Information and communication technologies statistics

Action taken by the Commission

5. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2009/19).

6. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, following statements made by representatives of Lebanon and Finland and the observer for the Dominican Republic, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2009/19) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

D. Price statistics

Action taken by the Commission

7. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/20).

8. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, following statements made by representatives of Oman and Canada, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/20) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

E. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

9. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2009/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

F. Statistical capacity-building

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2009/22) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2009/23).

11. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, following statements made by the observers for the Niger and Colombia, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2009/22) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2009/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

G. Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange (E/CN.3/2009/24).

13. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, following a statement by the representative of Canada, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange (E/CN.3/2009/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

H. Human settlements statistics

Action taken by the Commission

14. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on human settlement statistics (E/CN.3/2009/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

I. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

Action taken by the Commission

15. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 February 2009. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2009/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/115).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 27 February 2009. It had before it the note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2010-2011 (E/CN.3/2009/27) and heard an oral report by the Director on the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 27 February, statements were made by the representative of Canada and the representative of the International Monetary Fund.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission took note of document E/CN.3/2009/27 and of the oral report made by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/114).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-first session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 27 February 2009. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced and orally revised by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs:

(a) Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2009/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft multi-year programme of work for the Commission 2009-2012 (E/CN.3/2009/28).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 27 February, statements were made by the observers for Ghana, Italy, Indonesia and India. The representatives of the European Community, the International Monetary Fund and the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also made statements, to which the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division responded.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its forty-first session, as orally revised, and entrusted the Bureau to streamline and finalize it. The Commission also decided to recommend it, as orally revised, to the Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Council that its forty-first session be held from 23 to 26 February 2010 (see chap. I, sect. A).

5. Also at its 6th meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2009-2012, as orally amended.

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its fortieth session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 27 February 2009.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fortieth session (E/CN.3/2009/L.3) and an informal paper containing draft decisions.

3. At the same meeting, statements on the text of the informal paper were made by the representatives of Canada, Suriname, France, Lebanon, Germany and Japan and the observers for Australia, Mozambique, India, Morocco, Qatar, Jordan, Ghana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Fiji, New Zealand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Cuba. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Community, FAO, the World Bank, WHO, UNESCO, ILO and ESCAP.

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division responded to points raised during the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 6th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission adopted the draft report, including the draft decisions therein, as orally amended, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it. After the adoption of the draft report, the Chairman made a statement.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its fortieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 24 to 27 February 2009. The Commission held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 22 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2009/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 24 February 2009, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Pali Lehohla (South Africa)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Jean-Philippe Cotis (France)
Iwan Sno (Suriname)
Igor Uliyanov (Russian Federation)

Rapporteur:
Ali Bin Mahboob bin Hassan (Oman)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 24 February 2009, following a statement by the Chairman, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document E/CN.3/2009/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) Programme review: climate change and official statistics;
   (b) Agricultural statistics;
   (c) Energy statistics;
   (d) Environmental-economic accounting;
   (e) National accounts;

(f) Social statistics;

(g) Health statistics;

(h) Education statistics;

(i) Employment statistics;

(j) Gender statistics;

(k) International Comparison Programme;

(l) Regional statistical development in Asia and the Pacific;

(m) Development indicators.

4. Items for information:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

(b) Business registers;

(c) Information and communications technology statistics;

(d) Price statistics;

(e) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(f) Statistical capacity-building;

(g) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

(h) Human settlements statistics;

(i) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-first session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its fortieth session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.3/2009/L.1), as orally amended.

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at the fortieth session: Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Bank for International Settlements; Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa; and the Pacific Community.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its fortieth session are listed on the website of the United Nations Statistics Division (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2009.htm).

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